GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5062
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2012
REGISTRATION OF PESTICIDES AND WEEDICIDES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when pesticides/ insecticides and weedicides produced by domestic companies have been pending with the Central Insecticides Board (CIB) for sanction and registration alongwith the number and names of the insecticides and the manufacturing companies;

(b) the number of pesticides and weedicides sent to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether ICMR conducts testing of drugs meant for humans only; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to investigate the reasons for the delay and to streamline the system of testing and registration?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): Madam, grant of registration under Section 9 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 is a dynamic process. It involves an elaborate procedure including scrutiny of voluminous technical, scientific data, submitted alongwith the application, as per the guidelines of the Registration Committee, constituted by the Central Government under section 5 of the said Act. Applications without complete technical data or incorrect data on bio-efficacy, chemistry, toxicity, packaging and other relevant technical parameters, as required according to the guidelines of the Registration Committee, remain pending and their number varies from time to time.

(b): There are certain household pesticides which are to be used by human beings and wherein the claims of the applicants are disputed or opinion of subject matter specialists is considered necessary to evaluate safety to human beings, since such pesticides are likely to remain in human surroundings which may result in continuous and excessive exposure to human inhabitants of that household. Such cases are referred to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Also, the data on bio-efficacy is generated by the institutions of ICMR in case of household insecticides. Currently, a case of Metofluthrin, an insecticide, proposed to be used in households, is under reference to ICMR since the application of the respective applicant for the product and its formulations had been earlier rejected by the Registration Committee on chemistry and toxicological grounds in 2009. However, the applicants have made fresh submissions. The Registration Committee in order to be sure about the claims made through fresh submission has referred the matter to ICMR before granting the registration.

(c): As household insecticides are meant for use in households, ICMR is only competent authority to make comments about their efficacy and safety to humans. The data on bio-efficacy of household insecticides is generated at the institutes of ICMR. Therefore, advice of ICMR is considered most appropriate and, thus, obtained in such cases.

(d): As the case was once rejected after due consideration by the Registration Committee, all precautions are to be taken for ensuring safety of such a pesticide to human beings before grant of Certificate of Registration. Online registrations of pesticides are in progress in certain categories of registration which expedites the registration process and brings transparency.